



U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

January 14, 2021

Mr. Ted Kaufman  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Kaufman:

As I am sure you are aware, February 1, 2021, is the statutory deadline for the incoming Administration to submit a fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget to Congress. As Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on the Budget, which has jurisdiction over the budgetary responsibilities of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the congressional budget process, I am writing to ask for clarification on your plans to submit a budget request to Congress, a legal obligation required by the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Budget Act).

Recent media reports suggest that the Biden Transition Team (BTT) is attempting to set the stage for why it will deprive Americans of the transparency they deserve by claiming their ability to produce a FY 2022 budget is being thwarted by the current OMB.

It is my understanding that OMB has fully complied with the laws in advising the BTT staff during this time of transition, including:

- Providing all pertinent, factual information on ongoing programs as requested by the BTT, in addition to taking over 45 meetings with BTT staff.
- Fully apportioning the requested \$9.9 million for transition activities by the General Services Administration (GSA) within hours of the GSA providing ascertainment on November 23, 2020.
- Briefing BTT on funding streams concerning Operation Warp Speed and other COVID relief efforts.

The Budget Act requires the President to submit a budget request to Congress by the first Monday in February. If it is not your intention to submit a timely budget request, it is critical for the incoming Administration to explain why and when it plans to fulfill this obligation of transparency called for in law. The FY 2022 budget request will be the first true chance for the American people to see how the Biden Administration plans to pay for campaign promises and its plans to significantly raise taxes on working-class Americans to fund its agenda. I look forward to hearing from you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget